

(19)日本国特許庁 ( J P )

(12) 公 開 特 許 公 報 ( A )

(11)特許出願公開番号  
特開2000-325315  
(P2000-325315A)

(43)公開日 平成12年11月28日 (2000. 11. 28)

(51)Int.Cl. <sup>7</sup>	識別記号	F I	テームト <sup>*</sup> (参考)
A 6 1 B 5/00 5/0205	1 0 2	A 6 1 B 5/00 5/02	1 0 2 A 4 C 0 1 7 H E

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数 6 書面 (全 4 頁)

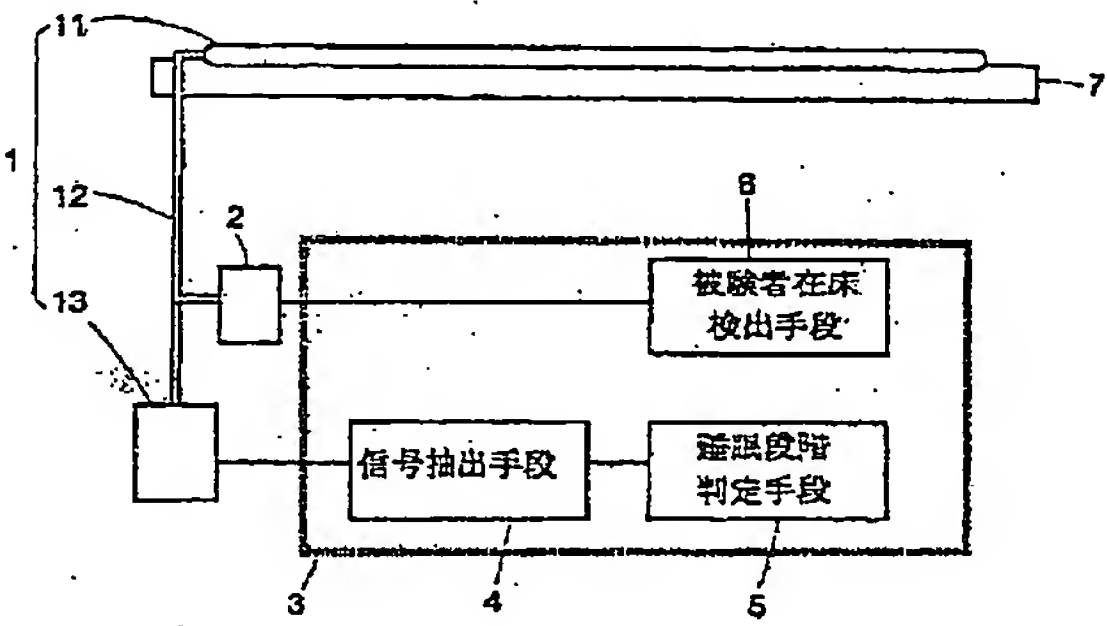
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		Fターム(参考)	4C017 AA02 AA14 AC03 AC35 BC11 BD02 CC01

(54)【発明の名称】 睡眠段階判定方法および睡眠段階判定装置

(57)【要約】

【目的】睡眠段階の判定方法およびその判定装置に関するものであって、特に睡眠中の被験者の身体に対して無侵襲な検出手段を用いることによって被験者の睡眠段階を判定する方法およびその装置に関するものである。

【解決手段】本発明の睡眠段階判定方法は、被験者の身体の下に配置した該被験者の生体信号を検出する生体信号検出手段を配置し、前記生体信号検出手段の出力信号から心拍信号と呼吸信号を抽出し、心拍信号波形と呼吸信号波形のうち少なくとも一方の変動パターンからノンレム睡眠とレム睡眠とを判別する睡眠段階判定方法および睡眠段階判定装置である。睡眠段階の判定方法およびその判定装置に関するものであって、特に夜間の睡眠中の被験者の身体に対して無侵襲な検出手段を用いることによって被験者の睡眠段階を判定する方法およびその装置である。



## 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 被験者の身体の下に配置した該被験者の生体信号を検出する生体信号検出手段を配置し、前記生体信号検出手段の出力信号から心拍信号と呼吸信号を抽出し、心拍信号波形と呼吸信号波形のうち少なくとも一方の変動パターンからノンレム睡眠とレム睡眠とを判別する睡眠段階判定方法。

【請求項2】 上記生体信号検出手段は、エアマットと該エアマットの内部圧力を検出する圧力センサからなる生体信号検出手段であることを特徴とする請求項1に記載の睡眠段階判定方法。

【請求項3】 前記心拍信号波形のR波間隔の変動パターンからノンレム睡眠とレム睡眠とを判別する請求項1または請求項2に記載の睡眠段階判定方法。

【請求項4】 前記呼吸信号波形の呼吸間隔の変動パターンからノンレム睡眠とレム睡眠とを判別する請求項1または請求項2に記載の睡眠段階判定方法。

【請求項5】 被験者の身体の下に配置した該被験者の生体信号を検出する生体信号検出手段と、前記生体信号検出手段の出力信号から心拍数信号と呼吸数の信号を抽出する信号抽出手段と、前記生体信号検出手段の出力信号から心拍信号と呼吸信号を抽出し、心拍信号波形と呼吸信号波形のうち少なくとも一方の変動パターンからノンレム睡眠とレム睡眠とを判別する睡眠段階判定手段とを備える睡眠段階判定装置。

【請求項6】 上記生体信号検出手段は、エアマットと該エアマットの内部圧力を検出する圧力センサからなる生体信号検出手段であることを特徴とする請求項5に記載の睡眠段階判定装置。

## 【発明の詳細な説明】

## 【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、睡眠段階の判定方法およびその判定装置に関するものであって、特に夜間の睡眠中の被験者の身体に対して無侵襲な検出手段を用いることによって被験者の睡眠段階を判定する方法およびその装置に関する。

## 【0002】

【従来の技術】個人の健康管理の方法としては定期的に検診を受ける等の方法があるが、数ヵ月に1度程度の検診においては身体の微妙な変化などの異常を見逃してしまうことが多く、また精神的なストレスなどは検診や問診などで浮き彫りにすることは困難である。

【0003】個人の健康について考える際に、睡眠をそのバロメーターとすることが多く、睡眠と健康とが密接に関連していることはよく知られているところである。健康と夜間の睡眠の深さおよびその質が翌日の気分や気力と密接に関連しており、一方精神的なストレスや体調が不良である場合には、眠りの深さとそのパターンに変化が起り、快適な睡眠が得られない。

【0004】健康な睡眠では、入眠した後にノンレム睡

眠段階レム睡眠段階とが一定の間隔で繰り返し現われるが、体調を崩しているときや、精神的なストレスがかかっているときには、そのリズムが乱れることが知られている。したがって夜間の睡眠中の睡眠段階とその発生パターンを監視することにより、被験者の精神的なストレスや体調の不良を知ることが可能になる。

【0005】従来からある睡眠段階を知る方法としては、睡眠ポリソムノグラフ(PSG)を用いる方法が一般的である。PSGを用いる方法では、睡眠中の脳神経系の活動を脳波、表面筋電位、眼球運動等から推定して睡眠に関する多くの情報を得ることができるが、被験者の顔や身体に多くの電極を装着して測定を行うために、自然の睡眠を得ることが出来るまで数日から1週間の日時を要する。したがって被験者に与えられる身体的および肉体的な負担は非常に大きなものであり、さらに、これに要する費用も多額になる。

【0006】したがって、PSGは睡眠障害があることが明らかな患者等に使用するのには有効な治療法に成りえても、被験者の身体的および肉体的な負担を考えると、日常の健康管理に使用すること、特に家庭で通常の生活をしながら使用することは実用上不可能である。

## 【0007】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】被験者の日常の健康状態を知るために睡眠の状態やその質を知ることが有効であることは判っているが、個人の健康管理の目的に簡単に利用できる睡眠段階の検出装置は現在のところないのが現状である。そこで本発明の目的は、被験者の身体に無侵襲で、即ち肉体的および精神的な負担を被験者にかけることなく、被験者の睡眠段階を測定できる方法および装置を提供することを目的としている。

## 【0008】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明の睡眠段階判定方法は、被験者の身体の下に配置した該被験者の生体信号を検出する生体信号検出手段を配置し、前記生体信号検出手段の出力信号から心拍信号と呼吸信号を抽出し、心拍信号波形と呼吸信号波形のうち少なくとも一方の変動パターンからノンレム睡眠とレム睡眠とを判別する睡眠段階判定方法である。

【0009】特に、上記生体信号検出手段は、エアマットと該エアマットの内部圧力を検出する圧力センサからなる生体信号検出手段とすることができる。また、信号の変動パターンとして、前記心拍信号波形のR波間隔の変動パターンからノンレム睡眠とレム睡眠とを判別してもよく、さらに信号の変動パターンとして、前記呼吸信号波形の呼吸間隔の変動パターンからノンレム睡眠とレム睡眠とを判別してもよい。

【0010】一方本発明の睡眠段階判定装置は、被験者の身体の下に配置した該被験者の生体信号を検出する生体信号検出手段と、前記生体信号検出手段の出力信号から心拍数信号と呼吸数の信号を抽出する信号抽出手段

と、前記生体信号検出手段の出力信号から心拍信号と呼吸信号を抽出し、心拍信号波形と呼吸信号波形のうち少なくとも一方の変動パターンからノンレム睡眠とレム睡眠とを判別する睡眠段階判定手段とを備える睡眠段階判定装置である。

【0011】特に、上記生体信号検出手段は、エアマットと該エアマットの内部圧力を検出する圧力センサからなる生体信号検出手段とすることができ。

【0012】

【作用】本発明の睡眠段階判定方法は、無侵襲な検出手段を用いて心拍信号および呼吸信号を検出し、これらの変動パターンから被験者の睡眠段階を判定するものであり、被験者に測定用の電極などを装着する必要がないので、被験者に身体的および精神的な負担をかけることなく日常的に採用することが可能となる。

【0013】

【発明の実施の形態】本発明の実施例について説明する。なお、これによりこの発明が限定されるものではない。図1は本発明にかかる睡眠段階判定装置のシステムを説明する説明図であり、主として生体信号検出手段1と睡眠段階判定装置3から構成される。

【0014】図1において、被験者が横臥する寝具7に被験者の体重がかかる位置にエアマット11を配置する。エアマット11には適量の空気を封入しておき、被験者の体重でエアマット11がつぶれない程度の圧力に保たれており、エアマット11の一端に接続されたエアチューブ12を介して、微差圧センサ13および絶対圧力センサ2が取り付けられている。即ちエアマット11とエアチューブ12および微差圧センサ13とによって被験者の生体信号信号を検出する生体信号検出手段1を構成している。ここでいう生体信号とは、心拍や呼吸に起因する微小な振動を含めた被験者による身体の動きをさすものである。

【0015】実施例においては、エアマット11とエアチューブ12および微差圧センサ13とから構成される生体信号信号の検出手段を用いているが、必ずしもこれにかぎるものではなく、圧電センサを封入した寝具やマットを採用することもできる。また、図1では身体の下に直接エアマット11が配置される方法が示されているが、生体信号信号の検出に不具合がなければエアマット11を寝具7の下に配置してもよい。

【0016】エアマット11は12~15mm程度の厚みで構成し、被験者がその上に横臥すると4~6mm程度の厚さになるように圧力が保たれている。また、被験者の重みでエアマット11の上面と下面が接触しないように弾性体を補強に入れることも考えられる。

【0017】微差圧センサ13は、エアマット11内部と接続されているエアチューブ12の終端に設けられているコンデンサマイクロフォン型の差圧計センサで、エアマット11内部の圧力を受ける受圧面と受圧面と対向

している対向電極との間の静電容量変化を検知することによって受圧面に受ける圧力変化を検出するものであり、微小振動によるエアマット11内部の圧力の変動を検出するのに好適なセンサである。したがって、被験者の心拍および呼吸に起因するエアマット11の振動によって発生するエアマット11内部の微小な圧力変化を検出することが可能となる。

【0018】前記微差圧センサ13が圧力の変動分を測定するものであるのに対し、絶対圧力センサ2は、文字通り、絶対圧力を測定するものであり、被験者がエアマット11上に在床しているのか否かを知るために設けられている。絶対圧力センサ2は微差圧センサ13と同様にエアチューブ12によってエアマット11の内部に接続されており、その出力信号は被験者在床検出手段6によって、被験者の在床が確認される。

【0019】睡眠段階判定制御装置3は、主として信号抽出手段4、睡眠段階判定手段5および被験者在床検出手段6からなり、生体信号検出手段1によって得られたエアマット11内部の圧力変動データから睡眠段階を判定し、これを連続的に記録し、表示し、出力する機能を備える。

【0020】信号抽出手段4は、微差圧センサ13の出力信号からフィルタ回路もしくはデータ処理手段を用いて、心拍信号、呼吸信号、および寝返り頻度信号を取り出す。生体信号検出手段1によって検出された信号には、様々な信号が重畳しているが、心拍信号や呼吸信号にはそれぞれ特有な信号波形を有するので、適切なフィルタおよびデータ処理手段を適用して信号抽出手段4において信号抽出を行う。

【0021】睡眠段階判定手段5は、信号抽出手段4において抽出された心拍信号および呼吸信号から睡眠段階を判定する。一般に睡眠段階は、覚醒状態、レム睡眠段階およびノンレム睡眠段階に大きく分類される。睡眠段階判定手段5では、どの段階に該当するか判定が行われ、その結果が連続的に記録される。

【0022】次に本発明にかかる睡眠段階判定方法について説明する。一般に睡眠段階は、ヒトの覚醒状態と睡眠は脳波波形にもとづいて、いくつかの段階に分けられる。覚醒状態では、アルファ波(8~13Hz)が目立つ。睡眠にはレム睡眠とノンレム睡眠とがあり、ノンレム睡眠では眼球運動が覚醒状態に近い状態で起きる。ノンレム睡眠の第1段階になると、アルファ波が消失し、ヒトはうとうとした状態になり、第2段階になると鼾をかきだす。第3段階および第4段階では深い眠りとなる。すなわち第1から第4に移行するに連れて眠りは深くなる。

【0023】本発明の睡眠段階判定方法では、被験者の身体の下に配置した該被験者の生体信号を検出する生体信号検出手段を配置し、前記生体信号検出手段の出力信号から心拍数信号と呼吸数の信号を抽出し、前記心拍数



信号のR波間隔の変動パターンと前記呼吸信号の呼吸間隔とからレム睡眠段階とノンレム睡眠段階とを判別している。

【0024】まず、被験者がエアマットの上側に横臥すると、被験者の体重がかかり、エアマット11には圧力がかかり、絶対圧力センサ2の出力が被験者が在床していることを示すと、信号のデータ処理および睡眠段階の判定並びにデータの記録が開始される。

【0025】被験者が覚醒状態から入眠状態に移行すると、覚醒状態では在床状態でも70bpsとかなり高い心拍数が、深い眠りに入ると60bps程度に急速に低下する。また、呼吸信号は覚醒から睡眠へ移行するとき、呼吸が不規則になることは知られている。これらを合わせて覚醒状態から睡眠に移行したことは容易に判定できる。また、睡眠段階から覚醒状態になった場合は、入眠の際と同様に心拍数の急激な上昇および呼吸の変化が起り、容易に判別することができる。

【0026】睡眠段階は大きく分けるとレム睡眠段階とノンレム睡眠段階とに分けられ、それぞれの睡眠段階における心拍信号波形および呼吸信号波形の変動パターンが異なる特徴を備えている。即ち、レム睡眠段階においては、心拍信号波形のR波変動が不規則になることが知られており、抽出された心拍信号の山の部分(R波)の出現間隔を測定することにより、レム睡眠段階にあることが判別できる。また、ノンレム睡眠の段階2から段階4の安定したノンレム睡眠では、呼吸信号波形は全く規則的だが、レム睡眠においては、呼吸は不規則になり、増加する。とくに呼吸間隔が著明に不規則となることからレム睡眠段階であることが判別できる。

【0027】以上説明したように、心拍信号波形および呼吸信号波形は睡眠段階によって各々特有の変動パターンを有しており、この変動パターンの特徴を予め睡眠段階判定制御装置に記憶させておけば、被験者の睡眠段階の判定は容易である。また心拍信号波形および呼吸信号波形はエアマットを用いた生体信号検出手段により無侵襲に検出されるので、被験者に身体的および精神的な負

\* 担をかけず、かつ構成が簡単な睡眠段階判定方法および睡眠段階判定装置が実現される。

【0028】

【発明の効果】従来からある睡眠段階を知る方法としては、睡眠ポリソムノグラフ(PSG)を用いる方法が一般的であるが、PSGを用いる方法では、被験者の顔や身体に多くの電極を装着して測定を行うために、自然の睡眠をえることができるまで数日から1週間の日時を要するものであり、その結果被験者に与えられる身体的および肉体的な負担は非常に大きく、さらにこれに要する費用も多額になると問題があった。

【0029】本発明による睡眠段階判定方法によれば、被験者に無侵襲に、即ち身体的および精神的な負担を被験者にかけることなく、睡眠段階を判定できる方法および装置を提供するものであり、自然な睡眠状態での睡眠段階を継続して記録することが可能となり、日常的な健康管理の質の向上に寄与すること多大なものがある。また、本発明の睡眠段階判定装置は構造が簡単であるので、医療施設だけではなく、各家庭においても容易に使用することができ、各家庭における健康管理に多大な効果が期待できる。

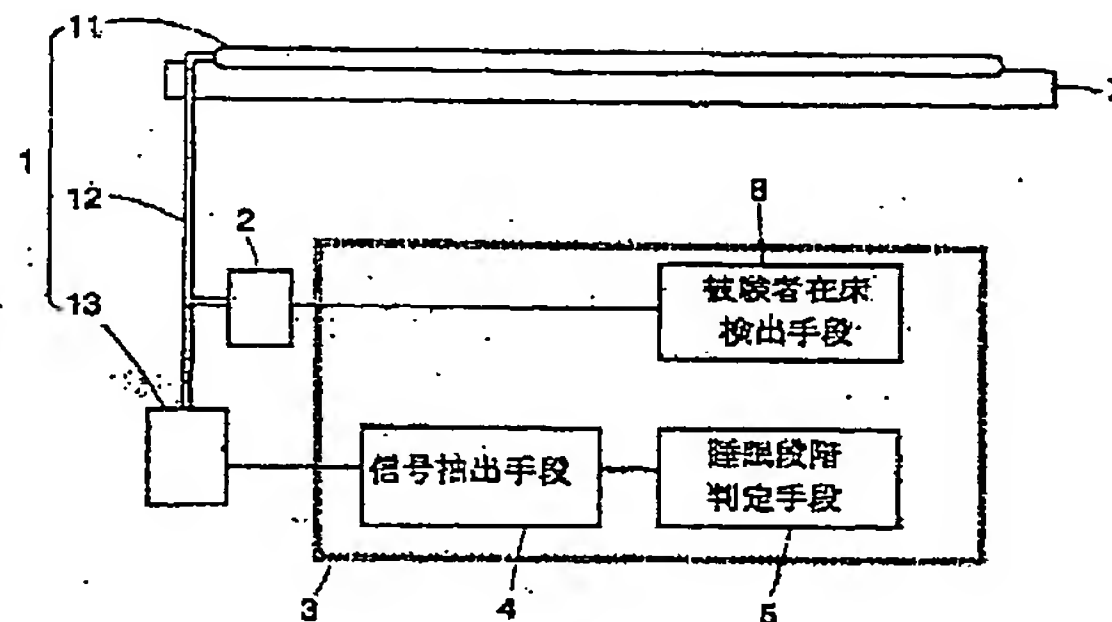
【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本実施にかかる睡眠段階判定方法および睡眠段階判定装置のシステムを説明する説明図である。

【符号の説明】

- 1 生体信号検出手段
- 11 エアマット
- 12 エアチューブ
- 13 微差圧センサ
- 2 絶対圧力センサ
- 3 睡眠段階判定制御装置
- 4 信号抽出手段
- 5 睡眠段階推定手段
- 6 被験者在床検出手段
- 7 寝具

【図1】



## PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number : 2000-325315

(43)Date of publication of application : 28.11.2000

(51)Int.Cl.

A61B 5/00  
A61B 5/0205

(21)Application number : 11-175901

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(22)Date of filing : 19.05.1999

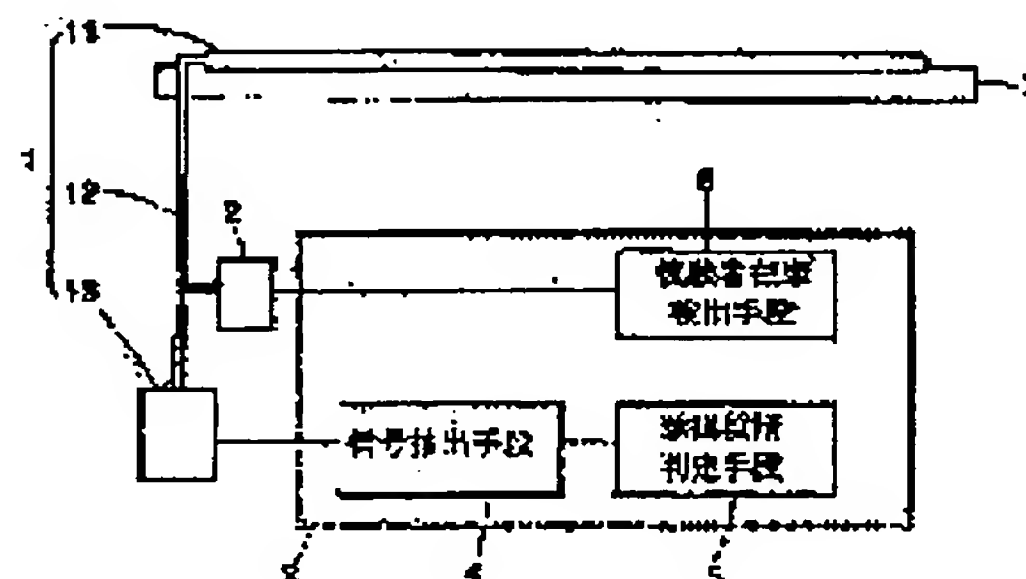
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## (54) SLEEP STAGE DETERMINING METHOD AND SLEEP STAGE DETERMINING DEVICE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To measure the sleep stage of a subject in on-invasive state by extraction a palmus signal and a breath signal from output signals of a living body signal detecting means disposed under the body of the subject, and discriminating a non-REM sleep and as REM sleep from at least one variation pattern between a palmus signal waveform and a breath signal waveform.

SOLUTION: In a bed 7 where a subject lies, an air mat is disposed in a position to which the body of a tested person is applied, and a micro-differential pressure sensor 13 and an absolute pressure sensor 2 are installed through an air tube 12 connected to one end of the air mat 11 to constitute a living body signal detecting means 1 for detecting a living body signal of the subject. A signal extract means 4 of a sleep stage determination control device 3 is adapted to extract a signal by application of a suitable filter and a data processing means, and a sleep stage determining means 5 determines the sleep stage from a palmus signal and a breath signal extracted by the signal extract means 4. The determination result of the sleep stage is continuously recorded.



## LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination]

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

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CLAIMS

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[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The sleep phase judging approach which arranges a biomedical signal detection means to detect the biomedical signal of this test subject stationed under a test subject's body, extracts a heartbeat signal and a respiratory signal from the output signal of said biomedical signal detection means, and distinguishes non-REM sleep and REM sleep from one [ at least ] fluctuation pattern among a heartbeat signal wave form and a respiratory signal wave form.

[Claim 2] A top Norio object signal detection means is the sleep phase judging approach according to claim 1 characterized by being the biomedical signal detection means which consists of a pressure sensor which detects the internal pressure of an air mat and this air mat.

[Claim 3] The sleep phase judging approach according to claim 1 or 2 which distinguishes non-REM sleep and REM sleep from the fluctuation pattern of R wave spacing of said heartbeat signal wave form.

[Claim 4] The sleep phase judging approach according to claim 1 or 2 which distinguishes non-REM sleep and REM sleep from the fluctuation pattern of respiratory spacing of said respiratory signal wave form.

[Claim 5] A biomedical signal detection means to detect the biomedical signal of this test subject stationed under a test subject's body, A signal extract means to extract a heart rate signal and the signal of a respiration rate from the output signal of said biomedical signal detection means, Sleep phase judging equipment equipped with a sleep phase judging means to extract a heartbeat signal and a respiratory signal from the output signal of said biomedical signal detection means, and to distinguish non-REM sleep and REM sleep from one [ at least ] fluctuation pattern among a heartbeat signal wave form and a respiratory signal wave form.

[Claim 6] A top Norio object signal detection means is sleep phase judging equipment according to claim 5 characterized by being the biomedical signal detection means which consists of a pressure sensor which detects the internal pressure of an air mat and this air mat.

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**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

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[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the method of judging a test subject's sleep phase, and its equipment about the judgment approach of a sleep phase, and its judgment equipment by using a less invasion detection means to the body of the test subject under sleep of Nighttime especially.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Although there are approaches, such as receiving a medical checkup periodically as the approach of the individual health care, mental stress [ overlook / in the medical checkup of about 1 time / in many cases / and / in several months / abnormalities, such as a delicate change of the body, ] etc. is difficult to throw into relief by a medical checkup, oral consultation, etc.

[0003] In case individual health is considered, sleep is used as the barometer in many cases, and it is just going to be known well that sleep and health are related closely. The depth of sleep of health and Nighttime and its quality are closely connected with a temper of the next day or energy, on the other hand, when mental stress and condition are poor, change takes place to the depth and the pattern of sleep, and comfortable sleep is not obtained.

[0004] After carrying out hypnagogic, a non-REM sleep phase REM sleep phase appears repeatedly at fixed spacing, but when having broken down condition, or when mental stress has started, it is known for healthy sleep that the rhythm will be confused. Therefore, by supervising the sleep phase and its generating pattern under sleep of Nighttime, it becomes possible to get to know the defect of a test subject's mental stress or condition.

[0005] The approach using a sleep poly SOMUNO graph (PSG) as an approach of getting to know a certain sleep phase from the former is common. Although the activity of the cranial nerve system under sleep can be presumed from an electroencephalogram, surface myoelectric potential, eye movement, etc. and much information about sleep can be acquired, in order to measure by equipping a test subject's face and the body with many electrodes, the time for one week will be taken to be able to obtain natural sleep in the approach using PSG from several. Therefore, the physical and corporal burden given to a test subject is very big, and the costs which this takes also become a large sum further.

[0006] Therefore, if a test subject's physical and corporal burden is considered even if it can grow into an effective cure that that PSG has a somnopathy uses it for a clear patient etc., it is impossible practically to use it, living a life usual at to use it for the everyday health care, especially a home.

[0007]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] Although it turns out that it is effective to get to know the condition of sleep and its quality in order to know a test subject's everyday health condition, the present condition is that there is now no detection equipment of the sleep phase which can be used easily [ the purpose of the individual health care ]. Then, the purpose of this invention aims at offering the approach and equipment which can measure a test subject's sleep phase, without being non-invasion, namely, applying a corporal and mental burden to a test subject's body at a test subject.

[0008]



[Means for Solving the Problem] The sleep phase judging approach of this invention is the sleep phase judging approach which arranges a biomedical signal detection means to detect the biomedical signal of this test subject stationed under a test subject's body, extracts a heartbeat signal and a respiratory signal from the output signal of said biomedical signal detection means, and distinguishes non-REM sleep and REM sleep from one [ at least ] fluctuation pattern among a heartbeat signal wave form and a respiratory signal wave form.

[0009] Especially the above-mentioned biomedical signal detection means can be made into the biomedical signal detection means which consists of a pressure sensor which detects the internal pressure of an air mat and this air mat. Moreover, as a fluctuation pattern of a signal, non-REM sleep and REM sleep may be distinguished from the fluctuation pattern of R wave spacing of said heartbeat signal wave form, and non-REM sleep and REM sleep may be further distinguished from the fluctuation pattern of respiratory spacing of said respiratory signal wave form as a fluctuation pattern of a signal.

[0010] A biomedical signal detection means to, detect the biomedical signal of this test subject that has arranged the sleep phase judging equipment of this invention under a test subject's body on the other hand, A signal extract means to extract a heart rate signal and the signal of a respiration rate from the output signal of said biomedical signal detection means, It is sleep phase judging equipment equipped with a sleep phase judging means to extract a heartbeat signal and a respiratory signal from the output signal of said biomedical signal detection means, and to distinguish non-REM sleep and REM sleep from one [ at least ] fluctuation pattern among a heartbeat signal wave form and a respiratory signal wave form.

[0011] Especially the above-mentioned biomedical signal detection means can be made into the biomedical signal detection means which consists of a pressure sensor which detects the internal pressure of an air mat and this air mat.

[0012]

[Function] Since the sleep phase judging approach of this invention does not need to detect a heartbeat signal and a respiratory signal using a-less invasion detection means, does not need to judge a test subject's sleep phase from these fluctuation patterns and does not need to equip a test subject with the electrode for measurement etc., it becomes possible [ adopting daily ], without applying a physical and mental burden to a test subject.

[0013]

[Embodiment of the Invention] The example of this invention is explained. In addition, thereby, this invention is not limited. Drawing 1 is an explanatory view explaining the system of the sleep phase judging equipment concerning this invention, and mainly consists of a biomedical signal detection means 1 and sleep phase judging equipment 3.

[0014] In drawing 1, the air mat 11 is arranged in the location which requires a test subject's weight for the bedding 7 with which a test subject lies. A suitable quantity of air is enclosed with the air mat 11, it is maintained at the pressure which is extent in which the air mat 11 is not crushed by a test subject's weight, and the fine differential pressure sensor 13 and the absolute-pressure sensor 2 are attached through the air tube 12 connected to the end of the air mat 11. That is, a biomedical signal detection means 1 by which the air mat 11, the air tube 12, and the fine differential pressure sensor 13 detect a test subject's biomedical signal signal is constituted. A biomedical signal here puts a motion of the body by the test subject including the minute vibration resulting from a heartbeat or breathing.

[0015] In an example, although the detection means of the biomedical signal signal which consists of an air mat 11, an air tube 12, and a fine differential pressure sensor 13 is used, it cannot necessarily restrict to this and the bedding and mat which enclosed the piezo-electric sensor can also be adopted. Moreover, although the approach by which the direct air mat 11 is arranged is shown by drawing 1 under the body, as long as there is no fault in detection of a biomedical signal signal, the air mat 11 may be arranged under bedding 7.

[0016] The air mat 11 is constituted from thickness of about 12-15mm, and if a test subject lies on it, the pressure is maintained so that it may become the thickness of about 4-6mm. Moreover, putting an elastic body into reinforcement so that the top face and inferior surface of tongue of the air mat 11 may not contact by a test subject's weight is also considered.

[0017] The fine differential-pressure sensor 13 is a differential-pressure-gage sensor of the capacitor microphone mold formed in the termination of the air tube 12 connected with the air mat 11 interior, and is a suitable sensor to detect the pressure variation received in a pressure-receiving side, and detect fluctuation of the pressure of the air mat 11 interior by minute vibration by detecting the electrostatic-capacity change between the pressure-receiving side which receives the pressure of the air mat 11 interior, a pressure-receiving side, and the counterelectrode which has countered.

Therefore, it becomes possible to detect the minute pressure variation of the air mat 11 interior generated by vibration of the air mat 11 resulting from a test subject's heartbeat and breathing.

[0018] To said fine differential pressure sensor 13 being what measures a changed part of a pressure, literally, the absolute-pressure sensor 2 measures absolute pressure, and it is formed in order to know whether it is that the test subject is doing lying in bed on the air mat 11. The absolute-pressure sensor 2 is connected to the interior of the air mat 11 by the air tube 12 like the fine differential pressure sensor 13, and, as for the output signal, a test subject's lying in bed is checked by the test subject lying-in-bed detection means 6.

[0019] The sleep phase judging control unit 3 mainly consists of the signal extract means 4, a sleep phase judging means 5, and a test subject lying-in-bed detection means 6, judges a sleep phase from the pressure fluctuation data of the air mat 11 interior obtained by the biomedical signal detection means 1, and is equipped with the function which records this continuously, displays it and outputs it.

[0020] The signal extract means 4 takes out a heartbeat signal, a respiratory signal, and a changing-sides frequency signal from the output signal of the fine differential pressure sensor 13 using a filter circuit or a data-processing means. Although various signals are overlapped on the signal detected by the biomedical signal detection means 1, since it has a signal wave form respectively peculiar to a heartbeat signal or a respiratory signal, with the application of a suitable filter and a data-processing means, a signal extract is performed in the signal extract means 4.

[0021] The sleep phase judging means 5 judges a sleep phase from the heartbeat signal \*\*\*\*(ed) in the signal extract means 4, and a respiratory signal. Generally a sleep phase is roughly classified into wakefulness, a REM sleep phase, and a non-REM sleep phase. With the sleep phase judging means 5, it corresponds to which phase, or a judgment is performed, and the result is recorded continuously.

[0022] Next, the sleep phase judging approach concerning this invention is explained. Generally human wakefulness and sleep are divided into some phases for a sleep phase based on an electroencephalogram wave. In wakefulness, alpha waves (8-13Hz) are conspicuous. There are REM sleep and non-REM sleep in sleep, and it occurs in the condition with the eye movement near wakefulness at non-REM sleep. If it becomes the 1st step of non-REM sleep, alpha waves will disappear, and if it will be dozed by Homo sapiens and becomes the 2nd step, it is begun to write \*\*. The 3rd step and the 4th step make deep sleep. That is, it takes for shifting to the 4th from the 1st, and sleep becomes deep.

[0023] By the sleep phase judging approach of this invention, a biomedical signal detection means to detect the biomedical signal of this test subject stationed under a test subject's body has been arranged, the heart rate signal and the signal of a respiration rate were extracted from the output signal of said biomedical signal detection means, and the REM sleep phase and the non-REM sleep phase are distinguished from the fluctuation pattern of R wave spacing of said heart rate signal, and respiratory spacing of said respiratory signal.

[0024] First, if a test subject lies to the air mat up side, a test subject's weight will be applied, a pressure will be applied to the air mat 11, and record of data will be started by data processing of a signal, and the judgment list of a sleep phase if the output of the absolute-pressure sensor 2 shows [ a test subject ] that lying in bed is carried out.

[0025] If a test subject shifts to a hypnagogic state from wakefulness, if he goes into the sleep with deep 70bpm and quite high heart rate also with lying-in-bed state, he will fall to about 60bpm quickly by wakefulness. Moreover, when a respiratory signal shifts to sleep from recovery, it is known that breathing will become irregular. Having doubled these and having shifted to sleep from wakefulness can be judged easily. Moreover, when it will be from a sleep phase in wakefulness, change of the rapid rise of a heart rate and breathing takes place like the hypnagogic time, and it can distinguish

easily.

[0026] When the sleep phase was roughly divided, it was divided into the REM sleep phase and the non-REM sleep phase, and it is equipped with the description from which the fluctuation pattern of the heartbeat signal wave form in each sleep phase and a respiratory signal wave form differs. That is, in a REM sleep phase, it can distinguish that it is in a REM sleep phase by knowing that R wave fluctuation of a heartbeat signal wave form will become irregular, and measuring appearance spacing of the part (R wave) of the crest of the extracted heartbeat signal. Moreover, in the non-REM sleep by which a phase 2 to the phase 4 of non-REM sleep was stabilized, although the respiratory signal wave form is completely regular, in REM sleep, breathing becomes irregular and increases. Since especially respiratory spacing becomes irregular to Tsuguaki, it can distinguish that it is a REM sleep phase.

[0027] If the heartbeat signal wave form and the respiratory signal wave form have the characteristic fluctuation pattern respectively according to the sleep phase and the description of this fluctuation pattern is beforehand stored in a sleep phase judging control unit as explained above, the judgment of a test subject's sleep phase is easy. Moreover, since a heartbeat signal wave form and a respiratory signal wave form are detected by non-invasion with a biomedical signal detection means by which the air mat was used, a physical and mental burden is not applied to a test subject, and the sleep phase judging approach with an easy configuration and sleep phase judging equipment are realized.

[0028]

[Effect of the Invention] Although the approach using a sleep poly SOMUNO graph (PSG) as an approach of getting to know a certain sleep phase from the former is common In order to measure by equipping a test subject's face and the body with many electrodes by the approach using PSG The time for one week is taken to be able to obtain natural sleep from several, and the physical and corporal burden given to a test subject as a result was very large, and when the costs which this takes further also became a large sum, it had a problem.

[0029] according to the sleep phase judging approach by this invention, providing a test subject with the approach and equipment which can judge a sleep phase, without applying non-invasion, i.e., a physical and mental burden, to a test subject, becoming possible to continue and record the sleep phase in a natural sleep state, and contributing to the progression in quality of the everyday health care -- there is a great thing. Moreover, since the sleep phase judging equipment of this invention is easy structure, also not only at medical facilities but at each home, it can be used easily, and great effectiveness can be expected from the health care in each home.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

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[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is an explanatory view explaining the system of the sleep phase judging approach concerning this operation, and sleep phase judging equipment.

[Description of Notations]

- 1 Biomedical Signal Detection Means
- 11 Air Mat
- 12 Air Tube
- 13 Fine Differential Pressure Sensor
- 2 Absolute-Pressure Sensor
- 3 Sleep Phase Judging Control Unit
- 4 Signal Extract Means
- 5 Sleep Phase Presumption Means
- 6 Test Subject Lying-in-Bed Detection Means
- 7 Bedding

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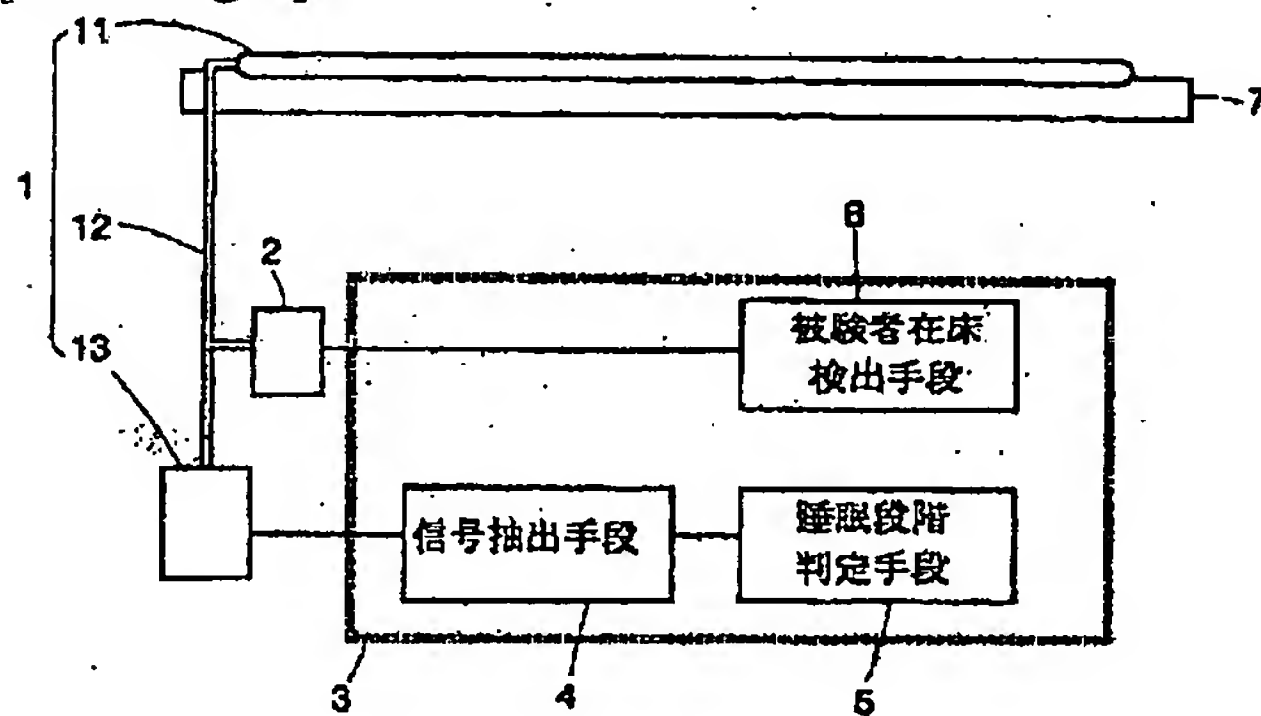
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DRAWINGS

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[Drawing 1]



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